

Dearest Mum -

Thursday 2.30 pm

Such a long journey & dusty - & yesterday as hot as Java - We buy papers every few stations & I enclose translations - The country is so interesting - yesterday rather flat, but the plains covered with bush pepper trees & cacti in full flower - yellow, red, purple, (pale) & mimosa trees - just lovely last evening & today we have climbed & are on the plateau - eucalyptus <sup>huff</sup> pepper trees just beginning to turn red - & trees of cacti - all sorts - They really are fascinating - flowers - fields of three horned poppies, (white & yellow) like Evening Primroses only prettier - coreopsis the brown ones, & tiny little rock roses - bushes & bushes of white azalea - & as I say, those cacti - At the stations it is like China - beggars - but the air lovely - & the Adobe huts very picturesque - All this plateau surrounded by California-like mountains - bare & brown but very rugged & fine - The peasants bring baskets & pretty brown pottery - nothing unusual - but cheap & pretty - so far nothing that we don't know - Dining car pretty good, everyone (Mexican) charming to us - & we both adore the Pullman conductor! Black <sup>hair</sup> & swarthy skin & the manners of a Grand Duke at least! But really very friendly & will talk English - but even the Spanish I know just makes all the difference - to be able to ask for things etc. - We have a car load of soldiers, fore & aft - guard.



They might be Mongolians - very cheerful though -

Last night + this am cold as Greenland -

but it is refreshing -

No trouble through the

Customs - few passengers + the polite helpfulness  
was very nice -

Got an hour <sup>idle</sup> in yester-

day - but today all compartments full - but it  
doesn't matter - my fingers are limber + I am  
pretty stupid today anyway -

It all

seems such a mixture of Russia + China -

looks so like the scenery Pekin - Mukden -  
only for the Cacti - those hedges of that stiff kind

They are early birds here - all up and  
jabbering at 4.30!

Yesterday we were

called at 5.30 for Saredo Customs - pretty

long + boring day - but very nice + agreeable

Very thrilled at getting back - + amused at  
my enthusiasm over the flowers!

Things a bit cheaper than U.S. I think -

advertising rooms in the biggest hotel for  
\$5 Mex with bath -

I've been doing Spanish

as usual but there is so much to see + I get  
so weary that it isn't very <sup>much</sup> good - but I am

listening, + there is plenty to hear - no one  
stops a moment - like Italy in that -

So far no blagas! but what very crumbly  
beggars + rags - awful to see again - + the food

messes they are selling the soldiers! Steals!!!  
Mr sends love - + says to tell you my Spanish is

perfect as I spend every minute on it!!